

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 148

OCTOBER, 1933.

Price 4d.



Topics of the Month

THE Hastings Conference has been universally voted to have been an even finer demonstration of Labour's unity

and high purpose than was the Leicester Conference. The debates were of high order; business was expeditiously dealt with, and the "temper" both on the floor and the platform left little to be desired. A common purpose was evident in every discussion. The Conference, in short, was a vindication of the democratic principles for which the Party stands, and it showed to the world clearly that in this country, at any rate, democratic institutions are able to fulfil their mission, and that just as a great movement can be controlled by a democratically-elected body, so could the State. That is an important lesson.

But we are disappointed in one respect with the Annual Conference. When will the whole of the Divisional Labour Parties realise the importance of sending their delegates? Nearly six hundred delegates might have attended as the representatives of Divisional Labour Parties, yet by comparison with this figure Local Labour Party representation was feeble and unrepresentative. We are a little tired of the obtuse attitude on the part of some Divisional Labour Parties who will criticise both Party doings and Party policy throughout the year and yet jib at the comparatively small cost of sending a delegate to the Annual Conference. At Hastings not only were policy questions of the highest import being discussed, but decisions were taken of the highest importance to Local Labour Parties; yet delegates were not sent from a high number of constituencies. It is all very well for Local Labour Parties to complain of "Trades Union domination," of de-

cisions with which they do not agree, or even to plead ignorance of Conference decisions making compulsory further financial obligations, but if they won't send delegates they have no right to complain of decisions taken in their absence. The great voice of Labour in the country is, as a matter of fact, left to be expressed by a minority of Divisional Labour Parties—and the vote on any issue is never anything near exhaustive. Yet Divisional Labour Parties can exert nearly 600,000 votes in the Conference if they choose to do so, truly a formidable weight on any issue which is raised.

And many of those Parties who sent delegates appeared in the last year or two to prefer sending their candidates to represent them rather than electing delegates familiar with local Party problems, and more truly representative of the Party itself. This particular matter is creating a new evil within the Party on which it is time something was said. Under the "new" constitution selected candidates are ex officio delegates to the Annual Conference without voting power. Because of the latter provision it appears to be the desire of many candidates to secure a vote at Conference by obtaining the representation which belongs to the local Party. Financial reasons no doubt facilitate this process in many cases, but the result of this growing practice will shortly be that Conference will be packed with a particular interest which in many respects is not the interest of the bodies entitled to representation. We do not suggest that candidates have an axe to grind, but we do suggest that the Parliamentary candidate for a division is not the best representative that can be chosen in the majority of cases. Another result of this procedure is that people actually experienced in local Party work and problems are shut out from the Conference. We

say that if candidates are not satisfied with ex officio representation and no vote, that they should seek to obtain an alteration in the constitution rather than monopolise representation which was not intended for them.

A considerable number of local Parties have, during the past few months, discussed what has been known as Harold Croft's "Two Years Plan for Power." A minority of the Parties have been pretty vocal in advocating action along the lines of Mr. Croft's suggestions. We confess to having had all along some doubts as to how the Movement would face up to the implications of this "plan," and particularly the financial responsibilities, and in our review of the pamphlet, "Mass Power Socialism," we expressed these doubts. The battle of Hastings on this issue was something of a fizzle. It leaves us able, if we felt like it, to say "We told you so." The new inspired and directive authority has not been born. We could pray that it was, but why pray for the moon? And somehow out of the welter and the tangle a plan *has* emerged. It is the Executive's plan and was accepted by the Conference as the fulfilment of the vision. But we make bold to say it is nothing of the sort. The vision, without a doubt, still obsesses the few—but what a cold awakening for it on a terribly practical morning.

Quite frankly, we are sorry for the disappointments, and sorrier still for those whose dream of a grand and holy crusade has been boiled down to a programme of meetings and payments of thirty-five bob a month for literature. But the world does not move in the clouds. It is an eminently practical world, and the Labour Party is an eminently practical Party. Therefore, we, at any rate, have shed no tears. We have more faith in the Executive's plan than we had in the dream, but on purely practical grounds. We will say nothing of the degree of that faith, for the problem now is to face Divisional Parties up to their task of sharing in the great crusade and buying the aforesaid thirty-five shilling's worth of literature, and distributing it regularly every month. The task should not be hard so far as those Parties are concerned who committed themselves to the Two Years Plan. They, at any

rate, presumably knew what they were doing, and will be ready to pay. Others surely will not fail us—at any rate we hope not; the glory and the power will be to those who realise their dreams!

THE NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR PARTY.

The following is a list of the newly-elected National Executive of the Labour Party. It will be noted that the Executive for the ensuing year is virtually the same as that which has been acting during the greater part of last year, the only change being the substitution of Sir Charles Trevelyan for Mr. Arthur Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins, whose name came highest on the list of unsuccessful candidates last year joined the retiring Executive on the election of the Rt. Hon. George Lansbury to the leadership of the Party. Our readers will recollect that the leader of the Party is an ex officio member of the E.C., and Mr. Lansbury's name therefore has to be added to the following list as also has that of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Secretary and Treasurer of the Party.

TRADES UNION SECTION.

M. Brothers (Textile Workers); J. R. Clynes (General Workers); J. Compton (Vehicle Builders); W. Dobbie (National Union of Railwaymen); S. Hirst (Transport Workers); J. Kaylor (Amalgamated Engineering Union); G. Lathan (Railway Clerks' Association); F. O. Roberts (Typographical Association); W. A. Robinson (Distributive Workers); W. R. Smith (Boot and Shoe Operatives); J. E. Swann (Miners' Federation); J. Walker (Iron and Steel Trades).

SOCIALIST AND CO-OPERATIVE SECTION.

T. E. Williams (Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society).

LOCAL PARTY SECTION.

G. Dallas, Hugh Dalton, Herbert Morrison, J. Toole, Sir Charles Trevelyan.

WOMEN MEMBERS.

Mrs. J. Adamson, Miss Mary Carlin, Mrs. Barbara Gould, Miss Susan Lawrence, Lady Mabel Smith.

Are You Ready?



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Sample Book	2d. post free	50 Books	7/6 post free
12 Books ...	2/- " "	75 " ...	11/- " "
24 " ...	3/8 " "	100 " ...	14/9 " "
36 " ...	5/6 " "	200 " ...	27/6 " "

Cash with Order.

Orders and remittances to

H. DRINKWATER, The "Labour Organiser,"
FERNHILL HEATH, nr. WORCESTER (Telephone :
Fernhill Heath 22), or

PUBLISHING OFFICE, "The Labour Organiser"
107 DALE END, BIRMINGHAM, 4. (Tel.: Central 0311)

Some Hints on the Municipal Elections

Compiled by Mr. A. ROSE, Labour Agent, Southampton.

We have extracted the following from the admirable notes on "Municipal Election Arrangements" compiled by Mr. A. Rose, of Southampton, referred to in another column:—

COMMITTEE ROOM WORK.

Arrangements should be made for the secretary or some other responsible official to take charge of the committee room as this work is very important. The room should never be left empty except during the morning or afternoon when it is closed, and steps should be taken to see that there is always someone responsible at the committee room who can say what helpers have to do.

The committee room is not a lounge; it is the office where those responsible have a large amount of work to do requiring quiet concentration, and members and others should be discouraged from loitering in the committee rooms until it is too late to do canvassing and other work.

The officer responsible for the committee room work should:—

- (a) See that canvass books, literature, etc., are ready for helpers immediately they come along, so that they are not kept waiting. See that as far as possible an experienced canvasser is always accompanied by an inexperienced canvasser;
- (b) Keep a record of all helpers in an attendance register made up as follows:—

Name and Address

October

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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- (c) Keep a record of the window bill and poster display in street order; press for window bills to be shown in streets where there are none showing;
- (d) Issue nomination papers as mentioned in these notes; carefully check them on return;
- (e) Keep a record of literature distributed;
- (f) Extract full information from canvass books each evening, making a list of the "Fors," "Electors desiring to see the candidate," "Electors requiring cars";
- (g) See that the candidate is kept

supplied with a list of electors desiring to see him, or is otherwise occupied with canvassers or at meetings;

- (h) See that checkers, relief checkers, messengers and other helpers are arranged for polling day;
- (i) Keep an account of all expenses;
- (j) Generally supervise the running of the election.

CANVASSING.

The object of the canvass is to find out all Labour supporters in the ward and see that they go to the poll. Unless systematic canvassing is done, all other efforts are futile.

First find out how many votes are necessary to win. Then work with the definite object of securing that number of votes. Until your canvass shows a fair margin over the number required to win, "outs" and "doubtfuls" should be repeatedly called upon.

See that canvassers always work at least in pairs; are supplied with a canvass book and literature, and return that canvass book to the committee room each night.

Section Leaders. Divide the ward up into small areas, and get section leaders appointed for each area. Section leaders are responsible for getting canvassing, delivery of literature, etc., carried out in their area. They should be supplied with a list of members in their area so that they can call upon them for help.

Canvassers. Should not argue with electors. Electors who require questions discussed should be invited to meet the candidate and arrangements made for the candidate to call if necessary.

The canvass book should be marked "F," "A" or "D" in column 1932, and a note made of electors requiring cars, stating the time required if possible.

EVE OF POLL.

On the eve of the poll lists of "Fors" should be completed. These should be in street order, and not too

many names on a sheet. As an alternative, a small card may be made out for each "For."

A list of electors requiring cars should be made out; also a list of any special calls to be made.

Final arrangements should be made for checkers, and relief checkers, and messengers, and for every available helper to report to the committee room as near 6 p.m. as possible, or during the day if available.

POLLING DAY.

See that all your promises go to the poll. As frequently as possible get from your checkers a list of those who have voted; don't wait until there is a long list.

Cross out on your list of "Fors" those who have voted; send a helper to fetch up those who have not voted. Between 6 p.m. and 7.45 p.m. call on every "For" repeatedly until they have voted.

Don't make noise and excitement outside the polling station; see that you never waste workers standing outside the polling station.

Remember that a very efficient machine usually runs swiftly and silently.

CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

Amongst other things it is illegal to:—

Bribe, threaten, or otherwise unduly influence electors.

Make payment for the conveyance of electors to or from the poll, either directly or indirectly.

Make payment for bands, banners, cockades, ribbons or marks of distinction.

Make payment for advertising other than to a recognised advertising agency such as the "Echo" or Bill-posting Co.

EXPENSES.

A statement of all expenses, by whomsoever incurred, must be sent to the Returning Officer within 28 days of the poll. There are heavy penalties for failure to do so.

A form for this purpose is sent to each candidate by the Returning Officer, and it is usual for candidates to send the form blank to the centre, with a statement of all expenses. The form is then filled up by the centre and forwarded to the Returning Officer.

(Concluded on page 187.)

CLEARANCE SALE

ELECTION ENVELOPES

ASTOUNDING VALUE

SAMPLES GLADLY

THOS. SUMMERBELL

10-11 GREEN ST., SUNDERLAND

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

An Example From Southampton.

There are many evidences of the keenness with which Local Labour Parties are this year fighting the Municipal Elections, and of the careful preparation which has been made.

An unusual example of skill and detailed care in election preparation has come to our notice and is well worth bringing before our readers.

Mr. A. Rose, the energetic Secretary and Agent of the Southampton Labour Party, has forwarded to us a budget of papers indicating what has been done in that important town. In the first place, we have before us several pages containing detailed hints on the election arrangements, these covering such matters as the handling of nomination papers, objections to nominations, envelope addressing, meeting arrangements, deliveries, window bills, committee rooms, polling and counting agents, committee room work, etc., corrupt and illegal practices, records and other matters. This is an admirable compilation and we should have been happy could we have reproduced the whole of this matter for the benefit of our readers. We strongly commend this practice of giving workers far in advance of the election a detailed guide of this character in order to show the nature and sequence of the different activities to be undertaken.

These notes on election arrangements have been dealt with at meetings of key workers, and a copy was handed to each of the principal workers at the appropriate time. One effect of the notes and time tables has been to advance clerical work, thus leaving the last two weeks of the campaign for canvassing.

Another innovation is that of supplying to each committee room a register of helpers. The register contains space for the entry of each person reporting for work during the election, with columns for the nature of the service rendered and the dates on which attendance was made. We understand that this method has been in use in a restricted area for some time, and the example created a demand for the same system from other wards so that now the register is to be used in all the ten wards being contested.

It appears also that some attention has been given to the necessity for

supplying candidates and speakers with adequate notes and data concerning the problems and matters raised as issues in the election. There appear to have been a series of meetings of candidates at which some "lectur-ettes" were delivered, and these have formed the basis of quite an extensive compilation of speakers' notes.

A sample election address to hand shows that considerable stress is being placed by Labour candidates in Southampton on local problems.

Another sample to hand is a small card which is used for recording "Fors." This card has been in use in a restricted area for about five years, but is generally being adopted this year. Every "For" is written up on a separate card, but note that these cards are kept from year to year, and form a permanent record in card index form of the Party's supporters. Boxes are made to fit the cards, and about twenty-five thousand are now in use.

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Select and quiet as Margate yet only 5 mins. centre and animation. 7/6 board and residence. Satisfaction guaranteed.

SAM HAGUE, Proprietor

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Galas : Rallies : Elections

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NETHERFIELD : : NOTTINGHAM

FOR SALE

"Labour Organiser" (December, 1927, to January, 1933).

"Labour Encyclopaedia" (3 vols.).

"Conduct of Elections" (Parliamentary and Municipal), published by The Labour Party.

What Offers?

Apply: 107, Littlefield Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION BY LOCAL PARTY.

Details of the Rawtenstall Event.

Our readers will recollect in our last issue we announced that the Rawtenstall Borough Labour Party were holding a three days Arts and Crafts Exhibition on September 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

The syllabus of this event struck us as displaying unusual originality and enterprise on the part of the local Party, and the event altogether appears to be one well worthy of imitation, and such as would do much to extend the influence of any organisation indulging in a like event.

We are happy to be able to publish this month further particulars of the exhibition kindly supplied us by Mr. J. H. Boden, Secretary to the Rawtenstall D.L.P., address, 1, Church Street, Crawshawbooth, Rossendale, Lancashire:—

The Rawtenstall Borough Labour Party, an organisation comprised of the Labour Parties in the Rawtenstall area of the Rossendale Parliamentary Division, like all other Labour Parties, have felt the lack of financial support during this last year or two, and in order to raise finance for the Municipal Elections, it was decided to hold an Arts and Crafts Exhibition. The objects to be as follow:—

1. To foster the creative art and craft amongst our members and at the same time to show the general public that the Labour Movement have a place for the creative mind of the average citizen.

2. To create a new enthusiasm in the Party and branches, as it would stimulate the interest amongst the members.

3. To raise money to finance the Municipal Elections.

At our first meeting of delegates to the Party and Executive Committees of each branch, we outlined a scheme for a proposed exhibition, various committees were appointed to deal with the following sections — Arts and Crafts, Music, Elocution and Dancing, Needlework, Knitting, Dressmaking, etc., Essays, Photography, Confectionery and Woodwork.

Each committee had power to increase their number by approaching persons interested and to our surprise we got a ready response from members of the teaching profession who

readily gave us their wholehearted support.

A donors' list was compiled as a guarantee for the prize fund. The committee appointed to deal with this had charge of arrangements for Preliminary Competitive Syllabus, Handbook and Diplomas.

A good number of meetings were held before we were able to draw up classes for each section and when the work was completed we had 3,000 competition syllabuses printed which we distributed to Labour Parties in the division, Trade Unions, all Day and Sunday Schools, Choirs, Music Teachers, Educational Societies, Co-operative Societies and other organisations who had interests in any section of the exhibition and a date was suggested when entries should be handed in or posted to the secretary.

As our rooms were too small we engaged a large school in the town for a week, to include the three days of exhibition, September 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

In all sections the response to entries was fairly good and likewise in donations the prize fund was almost guaranteed. As the advertisements in the handbook had been completed we were able to get handbooks out about a week before the exhibition.

On the Thursday, the Chairman was the Mayor of Rawtenstall, Alderman J. Hamer (Labour); the opener, Mr. H. Humphreys, M.B.E., Vice-President N.U.T. The following day Mrs. A. Law (widow of our late member) took the chair; Councillor Wright Robinson, N.U.D.A.W., was opener in place of R. J. Davies, M.P., who was indisposed.

On the Saturday Mr. J. Hart was in the chair; the opener was our new prospective candidate for the division, Councillor C. R. Flynn.

The public response was not as good as we had expected on the opening day, due to the fact that it was a fresh venture. On Friday there was a great improvement, and on the final day we had a crowded house.

It is interesting to note that along with the main exhibition, we held various sideshows — one worthy of mention — The Old Arts and Crafts Freak Show. We were successful in getting together a good collection of china, woodwork, tapestry and crocheting and other interesting exhibits which had graced the homes of the forefathers of our members.

Other sideshows were cinema, a glance into the future, and advertising show.

An interesting display in a special room was an exhibition of the work of the school children at the Alder Grange Elementary School; this was loaned by the kind permission of the Headmaster and the Director of Education.

The exhibition in all sections was of a high standard. The adjudicator, in his remarks on the music classes, said the class of entries were higher than those at most of the musical festivals.

All the judges commented on this aspect of the exhibition and Hannen Swaffer, judge of essays, complimented the winner in the junior class on her originality.

The Rawtenstall women's section played their part in providing the refreshments each day, and all arrangements worked successfully.

The exhibition is now over and we are arranging for the inquest—what will the verdict be?—I should say:

1. That we have achieved something which is of great value to the movement.
- (a) In that we proved to the general public (the majority of whom do not share our views) that the Labour Movement has a place for the higher arts and crafts.
- (b) We created a greater interest in the Party in attracting workers who up to the exhibition had not taken an active interest in the Party.
- (c) We did not succeed financially though we came out on the right side, yet from the lessons learned, experience gained and the ready response of the general public — we can say it was a huge success.

Public opinion says—next time the exhibition will also be a big financial success—will there be another time?—time and tide will tell.

SCARBOROUGH.

"LANSBURY," Private Hotel, North Cliff, provides excellent accommodation for your holidays in SCARBOROUGH. Modern, comfortable, good and quick service. Terms: Mrs. Flint.

THE SOCIALIST FILM COUNCIL.

We are not quite sure of whom the Socialist Film Council consists, but we note that the President is Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., the Director is Rudolph Messel, the Chairman is Mr. Raymond Postgate, Secretary, Daisy Postgate, 4, Elm Close, London, N.W.4.

The Socialist Film Council is doing excellent work in endeavouring to bring film propaganda within the reach of Labour organisations.

The road our friends are exploring is not an easy one, and that they have so surmounted difficulties as to be able to show the first Socialist film reflects profound credit on their initiative, pertinacity and devotion to the Cause.

Delegates to the Labour Party Conference at Hastings were treated to a private show of the film "The Road to Hell"—a drama of the Means Test—and we understand it is the proposal of the Council to hire this and other films to Labour, Co-operative and Trade Union organisations at a fee of £1 per film. This, of course, will never cover costs, and the Socialist Film Council is therefore open to receive voluntary subscriptions and donations in aid of its efforts.

It would not be correct to say that the film does not come up to expectations. Indeed, for a first effort it exceeds them, but at the same time frankness demands that we should say that the subject is treated wrongly, there are grave defects in the presentation, and that the principal actors have played a part with which they are unfamiliar. We should be sorry if these criticisms inflict injury on the prospects for success, but in the long run it seems to us to be better to express doubts and criticisms now rather than leave them till other blunders are made.

In presenting a series of pictures illustrating the operation and success of the Five Year Plan in Russia, the producers apparently have not had the advantage of the services of someone skilled in the industries portrayed in order to place the pictures in proper sequence.

But our most formidable criticism concerns the choice of subject for this film. A drama of the Means Test might prove an education to the middle classes, but it is, unfortunately,

(Concluded on page 196.)

RECORD CARD.**Instructions.**

1. This Card is to be written up in cases where a definite promise only has been given.
2. When a "promised" Vote has been actually given at the Polling Booth, take the Card from the Box, so that you can see at a glance who still require "whipping-up."
3. Where a promised voter has removed, give the particulars **IN WRITING** to the Clerk in charge of the Committee-room.
4. These Record Cards are the exclusive property of the Bolton Labour Party, and must be returned intact to the Secretary and Agent after each Election.
5. These Record Cards are **VALUABLE**, and you are asked to take great care of them. They can be used for several Elections, as well as for securing new members for the Party, the Ward, Labour Club, etc.

H. EASTWOOD,

Secretary and Agent.

Bolton.

Poll No.....

Polling District.....

Name

Address

This Card **MUST** be kept in the Box provided until you are **CERTAIN** that the person named has Voted.

BOLTON LABOUR PARTY.

We reproduce above a useful polling card, used by the Bolton Labour Party. This has reached us, together with a number of other admirable election samples, from Mr.

H. Eastwood, Bolton's energetic agent and secretary.

On another page will be found a suggested form of return for election expenses in a municipal election; it supplies a lack which many inexperienced electioneers have felt.

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.**Suggested Form of Statement of Expenses**

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR.....WARD.

Candidate: Mr. John Henry Brown, 99 Marlborough Street, Bolton.

	£	s.	d.
PRINTING. Election Address, Poll Cards, Handbills, etc.			
(Mr. H. Noblett)			

ADVERTISEMENTS. Bolton "Evening News," Special			
Posters, Advertising Cart			

SCHOOLS FOR MEETING.

Green Lane Baptist School			
Morris Street Wesleyan School			

COMMITTEE ROOMS.

69 Thomas Johnston Street (Mrs. Brown)			
45 Williamson Street (Arthur James)			
29 Queen Anne Terrace (Mr. W. Foster)			

CLERKS. J. Browning 5/-			
F. Thompson 5/-			
W. Jones 5/-			

MESSENGERS. J. Smith 2/6			
Mary Smith 2/-			
Arthur John 7/-			

Miscellaneous			
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Postages			
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Registers			
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TOTAL			
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Ward Secretary: Mr. Albert Ferguson,
209 Tonge Moor Terrace, BOLTON.

DATE.....

[NOTE.—Our readers will note that the above form complies with the requirement of the Municipal Elections (C.I.P.P.) Act, 1884, Section 21, which requires every agent of a candidate to send to the candidate a return of expenses within twenty-three days after the election. The candidate's own return of expenses may be in similar form to above, and (accompanied by the proper declaration) must be sent to the Town Clerk within twenty-eight days.—Ed. "L.O."]

OUR YOUTH PAGE

By W.
ARTHUR
PEACOCK

Everyone has cause to be pleased with the progress that our youth movement is making. At Hastings there was fine evidence of the part young people are playing in our local organisations. I suppose there were more young delegates from the constituency organisations than ever before. The League of Youth badge was well in evidence and the League members who spoke secured not only a sympathetic hearing but high praise for the useful contributions that they made to the debates.

One well-known member of the Party, who has not been too popular with some of our young people because of occasional criticisms that he has made of their work and propaganda, told me that he thought the speeches from some of the younger folk at Hastings stood out among the best.

I have heard praise too for some of the hard and useful work that League members have been doing in the constituencies. A typical case and one well worth mentioning here is that of East Fulham. Recently a week's propaganda mission was run by the Clarion Youth Campaign Committee. This body recruits its members from the University Labour Federation, the Fabian Nursery, the League of Youth and Clarion organisations. Its speakers are all young men and women under thirty. They held nightly meetings, they canvassed the houses, they sold pamphlets and leaflets and at the end of the week were able to show a fine increase both in Party and League membership, they had enrolled many new readers for *The New Clarion* and the sale of pamphlets had reached the thousand mark.

What was achieved in East Fulham by co-operation among the various organisations could be achieved in many other constituencies. Back in the summer a number of these young Socialists rendered useful service by spending their summer holidays propagandising in the rural areas. We have need to make the fullest use of the services of all our people and what the youth movement needs now more

than anything else is direction and encouragement.

The great thing, however, to my mind that the national campaign is succeeding in doing is to make both the young and the adult movement realise that this is no sectional job. Sometimes our League branches have kept too much away from the local Party and sometimes the Party has been too indifferent towards the League. The campaign is changing all this and the interest local Parties are taking in the campaign is most encouraging.

A particularly important matter for discussion at winter meetings of League branch will be the need for all young workers joining the trade union movement. Strangely, although many young people are keen to participate in the political Labour movement they do not realise the equal need to join the industrial organisations. During the winter speakers with experience of trade union work are to visit League branches and are to impress upon our members the reasons why every young Socialist should possess a trade union card.

Those readers of the "Organiser" who remember the League of Youth Bulletin which used to appear in these pages will welcome the news that that production has now grown into an interesting 12 pp. monthly. "The New Nation," as it now is called is making splendid headway and many prominent Party workers as well as prominent Leaguers are contributing to its pages. Arthur Greenwood, H. V. Tewson, S. E. R. Wynne and Maurice Webb are among those contributing to the latest number.

(Concluded from page 181.)

Whatever the result of the poll, the canvassing work will provide you with most valuable material for building up the ward. As soon as possible after the election, the register should be marked up with all the "Fors" and "Against" shown in the canvass books. Other information obtainable from election records should also be extracted and filed for future use.

Notes from an Agent's Desk

By JACK CUTTER.

There can be only one theme for these notes this month — the "Mass Power" or "Victory for Socialism" Campaign or Crusade — which is its official name?

Pages might be written with advantage on this topic, but I will confine myself to the point of view of an organiser who has the job of making the scheme work and produce the goods.

At our own Annual Conference we had advance news of the scheme before Uncle Arthur presented it to the larger conference. We heard that "in substance" it was to be Harold Croft's Two Year Plan. So it is—"in substance." But it is hardly the same in psychology and in spirit. There is in Croft's plan that little bit of something that the other hasn't got; something which roused enthusiasm and fervour in those who read and understood it and would perhaps have made our task easier in rallying our workers for a great and inspired effort.

However, there it is and we must try to get hold of the vision behind Croft's plan and pin it to the one of the Executive.

The difficulty I see facing many agents is that they are already carrying out most of the things asked for in the scheme and have been doing so for years with the result that their workers accept them as part of ordinary routine Party work. In these circumstances new zeal and new money will not be easily secured, and, speaking for myself, I confess to some anxiety when I consider that extra commitment of 35s. each month.

My own Party is continually keyed up to the limit. Every possible avenue of revenue is exploited regularly and every penny secured is spent on a definite schedule of events. Our annual income is big but we are always financially hard pressed. 35s. a month may seem a small sum but, "Oh, the little more and how much it is!"

Rightly or wrongly I have recommended to my E.C. that we spend some little time preparing the ground for the campaign and establishing a campaign fund so that the job could start with a swing and with some cash security behind it to tide over

the first three or four months until its effects begin to be reflected in increased subs.

One can't just start a campaign of this kind by merely arranging a few extra meetings and a little intensification in literature distribution. It must be accompanied by the idea that we are working for power; that this is the Socialist advance against war, Fascism and capitalist chaos. So many preliminary meetings of ward workers with allocation of duties and a general atmosphere of "on your toes" is essential for success.

I hope, therefore, that urgent as the need for action is we shall not rush too speedily expending in perspiration what should be spent in preparation. We are conveniently near to January 1st, 1934, and I suggest that is the date for an altogether start by the entire movement.

My space is filled and there remains much to be said. Perhaps next month we may continue a review of this fascinating topic.

I feel that every agent, whatever faults he may find with the details of the scheme is glad of its arrival and determined to do his and her utmost to accomplish its end.

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Agreement for the Limitation of Subsidies to Local Parties

The Scheme Explained.

Our readers will recollect that at the Leicester Conference a resolution was carried in the following terms:—

"That this Conference appreciates the generous assistance rendered by Trade Unions and other National Organisations which make annual block grants, and in many constituencies relieve D.L.P.'s of the entire costs of Parliamentary Elections. We also recognise that in many rural constituencies where Trade Union membership is weak, and where D.L.P.'s are solely responsible for electoral commitments, the sacrifice of Party members in these areas is enormous. We call upon the National Executive of the Party to consider and report comprehensively on the question of financing Labour candidates for Parliament and candidates running in association with the Labour Party."

As announced in a previous issue of the "Labour Organiser" the above resolution was acted upon during the course of the past year, and as a result of meetings between representatives of nationally-affiliated Trade Unions and members of the National Executive Committee, agreement was reached on a plan for limitation of the subsidies to be paid by organisations interested in the promotion of Parliamentary candidatures. Prior to the presentation of these scheme to the Annual Conference of the Party representatives of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents, were apprised of the matter, and suggested certain alterations, which were accepted. The resulting scheme is as follows:—

1. The financial arrangements between an affiliated organisation responsible for the promotion of a Parliamentary Candidate and a Constituency Labour Party shall be the subject of a written Agreement terminable after three months' notice given by either side. The written Agreement shall contain provisions to ensure:—
 - (a) That the Constituency Labour Party shall itself undertake to pay not less than 20 per cent. of the election expenses of such candidate.

- (b) That an affiliated organisation shall not undertake to contribute to the election expenses of such Candidate a sum in excess of 80 per cent. of the actual election expenses, and that in no case shall its contribution exceed 80 per cent. of 60 per cent. of the maximum expenses allowed by law, based on 5d. per elector in Parliamentary Boroughs and 6d. per elector in Parliamentary Counties. The limited payment shall cover any sum paid to such candidate in respect of personal election expenses or to any election agent in respect of an election agent's fee.

An affiliated organisation shall not undertake to pay to the funds of a Constituency Labour Party for organisation and registration expenses an annual sum in excess of £150 in a Parliamentary Borough, defined by the National Executive Committee, or £200 in a Parliamentary County.

2. Clause 1 shall come into operation after the next General Election, and the provisions contained in the Clause shall be included in every written Agreement arranged thereafter.
3. Where the association of an affiliated organisation with a constituency Labour Party in respect of a Member of Parliament or Parliamentary Candidate is continued after the next General Election, the annual payments to a Constituency Labour Party for organisation and registration expenses shall be reduced to the agreed maximum in the following way:—
 - (a) Annual grants of £150 to £200 in Parliamentary Boroughs by three annual reductions, and annual grants exceeding £200 by four annual reductions.
 - (b) Annual grants of £200 to £300 in Parliamentary Counties by three annual reductions and annual grants exceeding £300 by four annual reductions.
4. Where an individual, whether Parliamentary Candidate or not, interested in a Parliamentary Can-

didature makes financial arrangements with a Constituency Labour Party in respect thereof the restrictions placed upon affiliated organisations by the above Clauses shall apply in his or her case.

At the Hastings Conference the above scheme was fully debated and finally carried by a large majority. The scheme, therefore, has now the force of rule and some comments upon the matter may be of assistance to our readers.

In the first place, the principle of uniformity and limitation has been advocated largely because of alleged competition for candidatures where the candidate with the largest funds at his disposal was able to secure an advantage over his competitor or competitors.

Our comment on this matter must be that we believe this aspect of the matter has been overrated, and for some years past there has been discernible a far healthier atmosphere in the selection of candidates than the statement above made would indicate. At the same time it has to be admitted that the candidate with resources possesses an advantage over the candidate with no resources, not, we believe, because of the corruptibility of local Parties, but because the latter's necessities in the way of finance weigh with delegates when selecting a candidate. The new proposals will not remove the handicap as between a financed candidate and a non-financed candidate, though it may lessen the evil.

A more cogent argument in support of uniformity, or at any rate, of limitation, has been the admitted evil that some constituencies were spoon-fed at the expense of others, and that this process led to deterioration, and often entire absence of local financial effort and initiative. We agree that this is so, and that a better distribution of financial resources is long overdue. Constituencies which will be hit by the new plan will not be readily inclined to agree, but at the same time it is desirable for them to remember that their subsidies have depended from year to year upon the will of changing Executives, and other adventitious circumstances, and that there has never been any assured permanency about them. These constituencies might at any time have been left, as others have been, high and dry without any subsidy at all owing

to the withdrawal of their candidates, and if the new scheme compels them to face up to the building of local resources this very factor will be a guarantee against possibilities with which they have long been threatened. In any case, under the scheme they will still possess a great advantage over other constituencies, and it can be said with truth that there is likely to be a greater degree of permanency about the new scales of subsidies than there has been in the past.

Though uniformity is the basis of the scheme the word limitation much more accurately describes the purport of the agreement reached. There is no suggestion in the agreement of levelling up, though we believe the tendency will be that way—and we are not without some inkling of what at least one union has proposed in the matter.

But what is going to happen to the funds released when the agreement takes effect? It has not been concealed by the Labour Party that their interest in the question has not been confined to the considerations above named, but that they hope the savings to the unions affected by the scheme will result in the unions being able to put more candidates in the field or alternately to contribute sums to a central fund which may be used for distribution in constituencies where local Parties bear the full responsibility. Opponents of the change in the heat of the debate at Conference ridiculed this view and hinted that there were other avenues in which the money could be spent. This may be, but we believe that time will prove that the Head Office expectation is not unfounded. Opinion in the Movement has set strongly against so much money being spent on certain constituencies while none at all is spent on others, and we incline to the belief that certain of the leading unions will in due time make their contribution to a central fund. Pooling, as such, is out of the question, but a common pool in to which payments may be made is another matter, and it is something which we believe will ultimately be the outcome of the changed conditions.

In the meantime, it is as well to remove some of the misunderstandings and misapprehensions which exist in constituencies whose income is to be reduced.

In the first place it will be seen that the scheme does not come into

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operation until after the next General Election. This may be one or two years hence. Further, the full effects of the agreement will not even then be felt in any constituency until three or four years afterwards. It is difficult to argue therefore that there is not ample time in which to reorganise local finance, and in which to make provision for raising further local income.

The agreement, as it stands, does not make it clear that annual reductions are to be in equal sums, but this question has been raised and we believe that a definition will be given making this matter clear.

To take a fairly common example, we will consider the position of a borough constituency receiving at present £200 a year from a union. If the General Election takes place at the end of next year, the income of this party will be reduced in 1935 by the sum of £16 3s. 4d. If the General Election holds off a further year this reduction will not take place till 1936. Assuming the same constituency is at present receiving £300 per annum the reduction in 1935 or 1936 will be £37 13s. 4d. per annum, with, of course, a further progressive reduction in the three succeeding years.

The problem local parties are faced with in such constituencies is, after all, how to raise an additional income to the amount of the reductions named. It is not unfairly argued that as they will be receiving in the interim several hundred pounds by way of subsidies a return for this expenditure ought reasonably to be expected in the way of local development of an income-bearing nature.

It should be noted that the scheme applies to individuals as well as unions—an extremely healthy provision.

Not less important than the reduction in annual income is the compulsory obligation placed on local parties of finding a definite share of election expenses. Some of our readers may not be aware that this is no new principle, and it is not correct to say that unions financing candidates have in all cases in the past borne the whole of the election expenses. There has been a tendency for many years to stipulate that the constituency party shall bear a definite share, and the new scheme does no more than to give this arrangement the force of rule.

To take an example: assume a constituency where the maximum allowable election expenses, based on the number of electors would amount to £1,000. In such case £600 (i.e., 60 per cent.) is taken as a basis of calculation, and a subsidising organisation is not permitted to contribute more than 80 per cent. of this amount, i.e., £480, where the maximum is £1,000. The constituency party *must* in any case pay not less than 20 per cent. of the total cost. If the expenses exceeded the £600 the constituency party, in addition, would be required to meet the whole of the expenses over that figure.

What we regard as a thoroughly useful and valuable provision in the new scheme is the stipulation that financial arrangements between an affiliated organisation and a constituency Labour Party must be in writing, and subject to three months' notice on termination.

Altogether, we believe that the scheme is one which should commend itself to our readers. Sufferers there may be, but as we have pointed out it will be a long time before any party loses under the scheme. There is also the other point of view to consider, that those constituencies who are to benefit by the scheme have a long time to wait before the well-fed constituencies have settled down to feed themselves.

KEEPING CHECK—SALES OF TICKETS.

In the course of normal local Labour Party activity an enormous number of priced tickets are printed and sold during the year. Yet the accounting for same in most parties leaves a great deal to be desired.

Secretaries in the main are thoroughly honest persons more likely to cheat themselves than the Party, yet what secretary who doesn't possess an unimpeachable set of books has not felt uncomfortable at times when income from a particular event has not come up to expectations and comment is made thereon at a Party meeting? And in how many cases, too, does a secretary suspect perhaps one seller though knowing also 'that his own loose methods of "dishing out" tickets and receiving payment for same makes detection of irregularities almost impossible?

The importance of this matter and the size of the sums involved might

be better appreciated but for the common practice of carrying into income merely the nett profits of certain functions; the gross figures often do not appear at all. Yet an income of £10 to £20 from the sale of tickets for a large public meeting is a commonplace for some Parties and many times this sum is sometimes taken by way of sales of tickets for other events. That there is a certain class of persons, as with flag days, who have an alert eye to the possibilities of "make" on these occasions goes without saying, but whether that is true or no secretaries in their own interests would be well advised to seek improvement in the usual methods of handling tickets. And these remarks apply to the issue of all kinds of matter for sale, i.e., literature, badges, bazaar vouchers, books of draw tickets, programmes, and even to collecting books and sheets, etc.

All tickets, programmes and similar matter should be numbered at the printers before delivery, different-priced tickets being, of course, independently numbered. The additional cost of numbering is always quite trivial, and on the ground alone of time saved for the secretary in handling and counting the extra trifle is justified.

In the first place the greatest care should be taken in checking deliveries from the printers, and in making an accurate record of supplies sent out. We know one secretary who keeps a special book for this purpose, and takes care to get a signature in the book from each person supplied with tickets or other matter. This system has much to commend it, but certainly a book should be kept and the date supplies are sent should be recorded. This helps to obviate disputes. The records should state clearly the number of tickets of each character supplied. It is equally important to record accurately the sums received in payment and the date received.

Some secretaries have a loose habit of not requiring the return of unsold tickets. This is wrong, and all unsold tickets should be returned to the secretary and checked by him against the cash received and the total number issued.

It is often thought that the tickets collected at a meeting or other function might be thrown away, or even left in the hall. This is not good prac-

tice, for all used tickets should be returned to the secretary. It is not an unknown thing for tickets collected at a meeting to be actually returned by sellers as part of their unsold tickets. Common business instinct demands that proper settlements should be made wherever practicable before the event opens, but in any case the return of all used tickets to the secretary enables the latter to have material at hand to check whenever a dispute arises.

It need hardly be emphasised also that the keeping of accurate records provides an admirable guide to those who prove the best ticket sellers and who consistently help in this direction.

"SIX YEARS OF LABOUR RULE IN SHEFFIELD."

This timely publication, which we hope has been printed in sufficient numbers and will be purchased in corresponding quantities, presents one of the finest vindications of applied Labour policy in municipal affairs ever presented to the public.

We are glad to note that the publication has been produced in response to a public demand throughout the country, for the Labour Movement has learnt to look to the Labour Council of Sheffield for an example in how to govern. The booklet, which is admirably illustrated, tells its story in thirty-two pages. No words are wasted, for this tale of Labour's triumph embraces a very wide field. To read the booklet is an inspiration, and not only Sheffield, but the whole Movement should be proud of the revolution which has been accomplished and has yet to be completed by Labour hands.

We do not know how our Sheffield friends have produced this booklet to sell at one penny, but at this price it is a remarkably cheap election publication which could be distributed or loaned house to house in large quantities during the present elections.

It would not be right to conclude this reference without mention of the debt which Sheffield owes to Alderman E. G. Rowlinson, J.P., the Chairman and leader of the City Council Labour Group, whose extraordinary administrative abilities have been unselfishly placed at the service of the city. Mr. Rowlinson is a member of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents, and is held in high regard by his colleagues.

Labour Agents in Conference

THE "LABOUR ORGANISER" BEGINS ITS FOURTEENTH YEAR.

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents was held at Hastings on Sunday, October 1st, under the able chairmanship of Mr. George Morris.

The complicated business of the meeting was passed through expeditiously. The members received a report from the Executive covering a variety of subjects of interest to organisers not only in an economic sense, but in relation to their functions as agents in constituencies.

The Conference also received the thirteenth annual report and statement of accounts of the "Labour Organiser." These documents indicated that though the past year has been a trying one the "Labour Organiser" has surmounted many difficulties, and its sales and finances reflect the regard in which the paper is held by the Movement. The Conference unanimously passed a vote of appreciation for the services of the Editor.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Councillor W. Barefoot, J.P. (Woolwich); Chairman, Mr. J. M. Cape, J.P. (Spennymoor); Vice-Chairman, Mr. F. Constantine (Clitheroe); Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. Drinkwater; Auditors, Mr. R. Montford, J.P., and Mr. Wilfrid Whiteley.

A special vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Chairman, Mr. George Morris, for his services to the Union during the past two years. The members were obviously anxious to place on record their appreciation of Mr. Morris's capabilities as a chairman, and his conspicuous ability as a negotiator on behalf of the Union.

A special meeting of Labour Party Agents and Organisers was held on Sunday evening, October 1st, at Hastings, for the purpose of meeting the Chiefs of Departments of the Labour Party. There was a fair muster of members of the Agents' Union, and representing the Labour Party were Mr. Joe Compton (Chairman, and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee); Mr. G. Lathan (Chairman of the Finance and Organisation Sub-Committees); Rt. Hon. F. O.

Roberts (Chairman of the Adjustments Board and of the Press and Publicity Committee); Mr. J. S. Middleton (Assistant Secretary of the Labour Party); Mr. G. R. Shepherd (National Agent); Miss M. Sutherland (Chief Woman Officer); Mr. W. W. Henderson (Secretary Press and Publicity Department), and Mr. T. Grant McKenzie (Research Department). The Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., who was detained on Party business regretted his inability to attend.

A most interesting and diversified exchange of views took place at this meeting, the whole proceedings being also marked by a happy understanding between the representatives of the Party and the Agents present. The business done covered a wide range of subjects connected with each of the four departments represented, and the meeting which was of an experimental nature was voted a huge success on all hands. It is hoped that this event will become an annual affair.

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I need hardly say that our Party continues to appreciate the valuable help which it receives from the "Labour Organiser," and even in these days of economy our purchase of the journal is an investment which pays good dividends. — Mr. Jack Bailey, Organiser, Bradford and District Co-operative Party.

CONSTITUENCY PLANNING: THE MARKED REGISTER.

A Fine Example From Clayton Division.

We are afraid that a peep into the methods of record keeping adopted by most constituencies would not give us that pleasurable feeling which we experienced recently when we had the opportunity of examining the methods by which records of supporters and other constituency information is kept in the Clayton Division of Manchester. Agent, Mr. Ben Clare, of 13, Greenside Lane, Droylsden, Manchester.

We have often remarked that the agent's marked register is the basis of all organisation. The marked register in fact should be the agent's Bible. Mr. Clare keeps a marked register in which the records of election canvasses have been marked up, and by which one recognises every supporter in each street or ward. Many supporters are otherwise distinguished by other marks showing the union to which they belong, the fact that they are individual members, etc.

But it is the manner in which this marked register is kept which so pleased us. The whole of the registers are kept in a loose leaf book, and interleaved between each section is to be found a mass of vital information relating to the local organisation of that section of the register, besides some master leaves giving general information.

The Clayton Division has been mapped out into 152 blocks, and a section of the map has been traced out showing the streets in each block. The data relating to the various wards gives, for instance, the postal address, meeting places and polling stations, number of houses and the names of streets and number of houses in each block. There appear to be an average of 140 houses to the block.

We were interested to discover that besides marking at elections the register is periodically sent out to local workers for examination, and the marking up of supporters. Thus, though we examined each section of the register we were unable to discover any without a quite satisfactory number of markings, and in the majority of registers there was an almost exhaustive marking up.

It is some considerable time since we had the pleasure of examining such

a careful and exhaustive analysis for any constituency, and Mr. Clare has apparently been at the greatest pains to lay bare both the strength and the weaknesses of his organisation on a true geographical basis. We understand that all the blocks are not yet manned with workers, but with the division so admirably mapped out and such a mass of information available regarding supporters, means can and will be shortly found to ensure the appointment of captains and sufficient helpers in each area. This job is already well forward.

We are also interested to note that members in the Clayton Division now receive a monthly budget of news, notes and notions. This is in the form of four pages of duplicated foolscap matter, and cannot fail to sustain the interest of members in the work of the Party. Our congratulations both to Mr. Clare and the Clayton D.L.P. on the progress being made.

(Concluded from page 184.)

all too familiar a theme to the working classes, and may seem to them too much like rubbing in the horrors with which they are familiar. And the working classes may resent some aspects of the portrayal of their lives.

Though the acting is astonishingly good, is it not to be expected that those who have not actually experienced working class life fail in some respects to anticipate and express the human promptings of working class people, and instead portray what is not natural or customary? The producers stand in need of a working class collaborator who has lived the life.

But after all, we hope this first attempt will be taken seriously by the Movement, and that the Socialist Film Council will prosper, and produce until Labour can lay claim on the finest and the best that is shown on the screen. And why not? The average film is a polluted thing with present producers; Labour can, if it will, elevate this new art to the highest degree of usefulness and effectiveness, and all attempts to do so will receive our fullest appreciation.

NEXT MONTH'S

"L.O." will contain a special article on "The New Financial Responsibilities of Local Labour Parties."